

Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of a portion of Claim 4 along with the subject matter of Claim 8. Claims 4 and 8 have accordingly been cancelled. Claims 2, 3, 5 – 7 and 9 have been amended to replace “An” with “The.” Claim 3 has been amended to remove the parentheses in the last two lines. Claim 5 has been amended to change the dependency from Claim 3 to Claim 1. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended to remove the word “about.” Claims 16 and 20 have been cancelled in view of the cancellation of Claims 4 and 8. Entry of the above changes into the official file is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 – 9 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to cancelled Claim 8. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended to remove “about” as mentioned above. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. The Applicants have removed the parentheses from the expression. The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claim 3 is in accordance with §112. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite and notes that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the “aromatic diamine.” The Applicants note that Claim 5 was actually dependent on Claim 3, not Claim 1 as noted in the Action. However, in view of the amendment to Claim 1 which now specifically includes a reference to an aromatic diamine, Claim 5 has been amended to depend from Claim 1, where antecedent basis exists. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 5, and 7 – 22 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Okamura. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner’s detailed comments hypothetically applying

Okamura to those claims. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to Claims 4, 8, 16 and 20. The Applicants nonetheless respectfully submit that Okamura is inapplicable to the remaining rejected claims.

The Applicants have amended, as noted above, Claim 1 to include a portion of Claim 4 such that the polyimide (B) is obtained from at least one aromatic tetracarboxylic dianhydride selected from 2,3,3',4'-biphenyltetracarboxylic dianhydride and 2,2',3,3'-biphenyltetracarboxylic dianhydride. The Applicants respectfully submit that Okamura fails to disclose either of those claimed aromatic tetracarboxylic dianhydrides. As a consequence, the Applicants respectfully submit that Okamura fails to disclose explicitly or implicitly all of the subject matter of Claims 1 – 3, 5, 7, 9 – 15, 17 – 19 and 21 – 22. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 5 and 7 – s22 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Shigeta. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's detailed comments hypothetically applying Shigeta to those claims. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to Claims 4, 8, 16 and 20. The Applicants nonetheless respectfully submit that Shigeta is inapplicable to the remaining rejected claims.

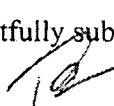
The Applicants have amended, as noted above, Claim 1 to include a portion of Claim 4 such that the polyimide (B) is obtained from at least one aromatic tetracarboxylic dianhydride selected from 2,3,3',4'-biphenyltetracarboxylic anhydride and 2,2',3,3'-biphenyltetracarboxylic anhydride. The Applicants respectfully submit that Shigeta fails to disclose either of those claimed aromatic tetracarboxylic dianhydrides. As a consequence, the Applicants respectfully submit that Shigeta fails to disclose explicitly or implicitly all of the subject matter of Claims 1 – 3, 5, 7, 9 – 15, 17 – 19 and 21 – 22. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 over Okamura. The Applicants respectfully submit that the fact that Okamura might disclose that a heat-resistant surface treatment agent is an aminosilane compound, an epoxy silane compound or a titinate compound does not cure the fundamental deficiencies set forth above with respect to the fact that Okamura fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the polyimide (B) is obtained from at least one aromatic tetracarboxylic dianhydride as specifically recited in Claim 1. As a consequence, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 6 is allowable over Okamura under §103. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 over Shigeta. The Applicants respectfully submit that the fact that Shigeta might disclose that a heat-resistant surface treatment agent is an aminosilane compound, an epoxy silane compound or a titinate compound does not cure the fundamental deficiencies set forth above with respect to the fact that Shigeta fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the polyimide (B) is obtained from at least one aromatic tetracarboxylic dianhydride as specifically recited in Claim 1. As a consequence, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 6 is allowable over Shigeta under §103. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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